

regional center. I would ask your support for LB 827.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins. We would ask for order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President, I don't know if I ought to be up here or not. Everybody is saying so many kind things about my compatriot here, Senator Morehead, I feel like I will be almost a persecutor if I go against this bill, but I am sure that Senator Morehead knows that I am doing this for the good of my county and nothing personal. In this handout, Senator Morehead's handout, it says that the State of Nebraska, average cost per client in the regional centers is \$125.41 per day. I don't know, maybe we ought to do a study of the regional centers and find out why it is costing all taxpayers \$3,762.30 a month. Now that is terrible. Even the nursing homes don't charge that much for people who cannot feed themselves, bathe themselves or clothe themselves. This seems like an outlandish price to pay for people that are able-bodied but just have perhaps a mental quirk. I don't know. Maybe we ought to be addressing DPI and let's table this bill right now and get a committee to do a study on these regional centers. I would also like to mention the fact that this business of what one county pays as opposed to how many people another county puts in the Regional Center, that is kind of like, let's you and him fight, let's pit one county against another. You know who pays sales and income taxes in this state? Everybody that lives in Nebraska. It doesn't matter what county they live in. So we are all going to pay and we are all paying for the regional centers. Now this bill suggests you people that live in certain counties, you keep paying the sales tax, you keep paying the income tax, but we want you to pay more for the regional center you are already paying \$3,762.30 a month to keep a person in there. I think we ought to consider, I mean, this is kind of double taxation. We are going to have you support the regional center and then we are going to increase the cost of the regional center. I just think that since all the counties are right now subsidizing the regional centers, weren't they built originally to answer the need of all the people of the